

Family Distinctives (Romans 8:14-18)

Proposition: Every person can identify their position in the family by recognizing the three family distinctives found in our text.

- I. They are Led by the Spirit (Vs. 14)
 - A. The Presence of the Spirit (Vs. 14)
 - B. The Pull of the Spirit (Vs. 14)
- II. **They are Loved by the Father** (Vs. 15-17a)
 - A. The Love of Liberation (Vs. 15a)
 - B. The Love of Supplication (Vs. 15b)
 - C. The Love of Identification (Vs. 16-17a)
- III. **They are Lifted by the Son** (Vs. 17b-18)
 - A. Lifted from Sufferings (Vs. 17b)
 - B. Lifted to Splendor (Vs. 17c-18)

Family Distinctives (Romans 8:14-18)

Near the entrance to the Alamo there is a portrait with the inscription: "James Butler Bonham - no portrait of him exists. This is a portrait of his nephew, Mayor

James Bonham, deceased, who greatly resembled his uncle. It is placed here by the family that people may know the appearance of the man who died for freedom." A portrait of another who died for freedom is missing as well. Jesus Christ died to free us from the captive forces of sin and death, yet no picture of him remains. But by

virtue of our repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ, we are birthed into the family of God.

Therefore we each have certain relational resemblances certain family distinctives that identify us belonging in the family of God. Every person can identify their position in the family by recognizing the three family distinctives found in our text. Notice first of all

People that are genuine sons + daughters of God.

I. They are Led by the Spirit - (14)

Certain family resemblances may be a cleft chin, or a high cheek bone or a certain nose shape. Likewise every child

of God may have varying degrees of appearance but

A. The Presence of the Spirit - At the very moment of our conversion to Christ the Holy Spirit of God takes up residence in our life. Peter James and John walked w/ Jesus in the flesh. But at his departure Jesus spoke of another comforter. The very word itself indicates one who comes along side to comfort or encourage. He not only comforts, but corrects us in truth, convicts us of sin, connects us to God. Time and time again in the book of Acts when we find conversion ³ we find the Spirit of God.

B. The Pull of the Spirit - Not only is he present but he is active. He is leading. This word translated "led" is a word describing the leading of an animal by a rope. You see our flesh is in direct opposition to God. It wants to please self not God. But the spirit of God pulls the child of God into conformity. His leading is gentle yet it is sure. The author describes this leading like the Mississippi River. Overall it is flowing south. ³ there are places where the river flows east and even north. But in the

II. They are Loved by the Father

You may be thinking to yourself, wait a minute, how is that different from his love of everybody. Jm 3:16. The love for his children

1) ...degrees of appearance but they all bare the mark of being led by the Spirit of God.

2) ...Spirit of God. Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

3) ...but in the end the southward direction takes over. So it is with the child of God. The true flow of a believers life is toward holiness, even though there may be the occasional lapses. In time the flow heavenward and homeward is resumed.

- 1) ...my love is an active love for those of my own house hold.
- 2) Romans 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. One author writes: "It was not the spirit proper to slaves, leading them again to shrink from God in fear as they had done when under the law of sin and death, but a Spirit of adoption, a Spirit proper to thoes who were being translated from the servile to the familial relation to God."
- 3) ...address of an adult son who is able to enter into the heart mind and will of the Father. In Mark 14:36 Jesus used the exact two words when addressing His father in the garden of Gethsemane, giving is just a glimpse into the position of intimacy that we hold before the Father as His sons and daughters. John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God:
- 4) ...Christ's by prescriptive right. As "heir of all things," He is the sole proprietor of the vast creation of God, and He has admitted us to claim the whole as ours, by virtue of that deed of joint-heir-ship which the Lord hath ratified with His chosen people. The golden streets of paradise, the pearly gates, the river of life, the transcendent bliss, and the unutterable glory, are, by our blessed Lord, made over to us for our everlasting possession.

is an active love. I love all kinds of children but my ⁽¹⁾
A. The Love of Liberation - John
Newton's precious song "Amazing Grace"
says "times grace that taught my heart to
fear...". The bondage of the law its violation
and consequences drove us to Christ. Once
there, he did not give us again that same
spirit, but liberated us from the law of sin
and death Rom 8:2 ⁽²⁾

B. The Love of Supplication - This
adopter from slaves to sons entitles
us to come to our Father, to call
upon Him. "Aihha" is a word indicating
an infantile cry, a simple helpless utterance
such as "da da" a word of simple trust.
"Father" is not "Aihha" it is an intelligent address
of confidence and obedience. The formal address of ⁽³⁾

C. The Love of Identification - The
indwelling presence of the spirit of
God testifies to our human spirit that
we are the sons and daughters of God.
Rom 8:9b. If we are his then God the Father
identifies us as heirs of God Joint heirs w/ Christ
Spurgeon described it thus: The boundless
realms of His Father's universe are Christ's ⁽⁴⁾

III. They are Lifted by the Son -
In Mark 10, we see the scene where
Parents were attempting to bring their
children to the Lord... He took them up. He

lifted them. He does so in each and every child.

A. Lifted from Sufferings - The "if" in vs 17 is not one of doubt but one of certainty. "Since" "inasmuch" Paul immediately equates identity w/ Christ to suffering w/ Christ. Now that is almost missing from our world. Many believe that a belief in Christ annuls the threat of suffering. Quite the contrary. ¹ Matt 10:24; 16:24;

He was reviled and rejected, why should we expect anything different. We suffer the ridicule of this world, the reproach of the cross, the rejection of society. ² Heb 13:13

B. Lifted to Splendor - We may suffer with Him but he also will be glorified. Rejection for Christ is not w/o its reward from Christ. "Glorified" are another defined it as "the triumphant arrival of God's glory, ushering in a new and glorious day in the lives and territories where the word of the Lord is heard and received." vs 18 Paul says the present agonies endured in this life (beatings, lashings, stings, shipwreck, hunger) pale in comparison to the glory of God that is being revealed in us.

IV. Close - Could it be said that your life has a striking resemblance to the distinctive of the family of God.

- 1) Matthew 10:24 The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord. Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.
- 2) Hebrews 13:13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. Yet we suffer with Him, not alone from Him. And we have the promise from this verse of His lifting from suffering.